

## Land Acquisition and State Assistance/State Conservation Grants

### JUSTIFICATION OF PROGRAM AND PERFORMANCE

Activity: State Conservation Grants Administration

	2001 Enacted	Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	2002 Budget Request	Change From 2001 (+/-)
State Conservation Grants Administration	1,497	20	+7,483	9,000	+7,503
<b>Total Requirements \$(000)</b>	<b>1,497</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>+7,483</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>+7,503</b>

### AUTHORIZATION

16 U.S.C. 4601-4-11, Land and Water Conservation Fund (L&WCF) Act of 1965, as amended

### OVERVIEW

**The State Conservation Grants Administration** activity administers previously awarded and new grant projects in cooperation with State partners so as to ensure accountability and compliance with site conservation and public access mandates.

### APPLICABLE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE MISSION GOALS

- IIIb Through partnerships with other federal, state and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provides educational, recreational, and conservation benefits for the American people.
- IIIc Assisted through Federal funds and programs, the protection of recreational opportunities is achieved through formal mechanisms to ensure continued access for public recreational use.

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#### *State Conservation Grants Administration FY 2001 Estimated Program and Anticipated Accomplishments*

**Enacted: \$1,497,000**

The State grants administrative account covers expenses associated with two main program functions: one fixed - the other variable - workload determined by whether new grant funds are appropriated, and the size of such appropriation. The \$89 million grant program in FY 2001 more than doubled from the previous year's appropriation of \$40 million. Overall grant workloads include increases in the administration of an estimated 850 new grants which includes providing technical assistance to States in updating and or developing their new outdoor recreation plans, training NPS and State staff, conducting onsite reviews of potential recreation sites to ensure compliance with program requirements.

In addition to new grants, proactive fiduciary activities are continued and include: inspecting or certifying 7,000 project sites, negotiating and resolving an estimated 250 ongoing conversion issues, closeout of 125 active grants, processing 250 grant billings, and the resolution of seven audit exceptions.

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### **Performance Goals**

Long-term Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2005, 100% of the 41,165 recreational properties (estimated for September 30, 2005) assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program are protected and remain available for public recreation.
Annual Goal IIIc1	By September 30, 2002, 100% of the 34,088 recreational properties assisted by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program, and the Federal Lands to Parks Program are protected and remain available for public recreation.

<b>State Conservation Grants Performance Information</b>	<b>FY 2000 Actual</b>	<b>FY 2001 Estimate</b>	<b>FY 2002 Estimate</b>
Number of sites inspected and certified operational	1,988	7,000	7,000
Number of sites threatened	225	250	275
Number of active grants completed and closed out	171	125	180
Number of new grants awarded	268	850	850

### **JUSTIFICATION OF FY 2002 BUDGET REQUEST FOR STATE CONSERVATION GRANTS ADMINISTRATION**

	<b>2002 Budget Request</b>	<b>Program Changes (+/-)</b>
State Conservation Grants Administration \$(000)	9,000	+7,483

The FY 2002 request for State Conservation Grants Administration is \$9.0 million and 82 FTE, which represents an increase of \$7.503 million and 56 FTE over the FY 2001 enacted level. The justification of the proposed programmatic increase of \$7.483 million follows.

▪ **State Conservation Grants Administration (+\$7,483,000; +56 FTE):** An increase of \$7.483 million and 56 FTE for grant administration is needed for additional staff to administer new grants and program functions, development of new program policy and regulations, and to conduct ongoing park protection and stewardship activities for prior year completed grants (over 38,000), and for the administration of approximately 750 active projects funded in FY 2000 and FY 2001. These activities include the review and approval of new grants, providing technical assistance to States for updating or developing new outdoor recreation State plans, certifying approximately 4,500 recreation sites, closing out 300 active grants, processing 1,000 grant billings, and processing 275 conversion issues.

In addition, approximately \$1.0 million of the above amount would be needed to administer the fiduciary responsibilities for over 1300 sites funded under the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR), including 14 active projects funded in FY 2000 and 125 to 150 funded during the FY 2001 grant round. Ongoing park protection and stewardship efforts include periodic site inspections or grantee certifications of completed project sites to guarantee full public access and utility for recreation as mandated by section 1010 of the enabling legislation, and to ensure that recreation opportunities continue at the project site or at alternative locations if the situation warrants.